President was held and a list of works to be carried out according to a particular order of urgency was prepared; and Government held out hopes that the works would be taken up every year in the order ofurgency given. But he regretted to have to say that it was not done.

The Member then presented a memorial, signed by the Members of the Assembly, praying for the extension of the Railway from Kottarakara to Alwaye.

Dewan's reply.—The proposal for the extension of the Railway line from Kottarakara to Alwaye is premature. The other suggestions of the Member are noted.

64. Grievances of the ryots of Nanjanad in the matter of irrigation.

Mr. K. Chidambarathanu Pillai (Member, Tovala Taluk) requested—

(1) the removal from the Pazhayar of the accumulation of silt caused by the overflow of water from the Alathurayar, Puthenar, Anandanar, &c.;

(2) attention being paid by Government to the present condition of the N. Puthenar which was causing loss both to the ryots and the Government;

(3) the sluices in the N. Puthenar being increased to their former number;

(4) the sluices being kept open longer than for $2\frac{1}{2}$ days as at present for the reason that the Revenue Department acted under the impression that the sluices were open for a longer period than $2\frac{1}{2}$ days and that sufficient water was not available under the present arrangement;

(5) the opening of more roads for the area commanded by the Tovala Channel;

(6) the widening of the *kal* known as *Thazhathunathi* north of Vellamadam, as, during the freshes, the water overflowed the banks and caused damage; and

(7) the opening of Panchayat Courts in each taluk and particularly one such Court in Tovala and in Agastiswaram.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

65. Need for removing the grievances of the ryots of Nanjanad, with special reference to the formation of an Irrigation Board.

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram Taluk) thanked the Government for ordering the opening of the Kodayar dam a week earlier than usual during the current year and requested that orders be issued for opening the dam on the 1st Vycausy and closing it on the 30th Thye every year. He suggested the appointment of a Committee for the proper supervision of the maintenance of the Kodayar works. He then advocated the creation, on a statutory basis, of an Irrigation Board consisting of the Director of Agriculture, the Irrigation Officer, the Land Revenue Officer and a few of the leading ryots. He urged the need for more roads for carrying on their agricultural operations. For instance, the road from Thamarakulam to Parakkai—about a mile and a half—was highly useful for the transport of manure to the paddy fields and should be improved. The necessity for the road had been admitted by the Dewan Peishkar and the Chief Engineer. The Member also pressed, for the consideration of Government, the following:—

(1) a standing order should be issued allowing remission of revenue in cases of *karivu*, *tharisu* and *azhukichetham*;

(2) a Committee should be appointed to select grazing grounds;

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

(3) the Pazhayar river should be broadened from the Suchindram bridge as far as the Manakkudi Kayal by removing all encroachments ;

(4) the Mission Dam should be removed ;

(5) the proposal to divert, by another canal, the refuse water from the Suchindram paddy fields should be abandoned ;

(5) the sluice put up at the Parakkai tank to let water into the Palkulam should not be opened ;

(6) the ryots should be allowed to plant trees on river *porambokes* when the existing trees disappeared ; and

(7) the water from Chempakulam should be diverted for the use of the 8,000 acres of wet lands in Thekkumputhur.

Dewan's reply.—The question of constituting an Irrigation Board will again be considered. The other points are noted.

66. Measures to prevent the Kodayar channel water from rendering parts of the town of Nagercoil uninhabitable.

Mr. D. C. Joseph (Member, T. I. C., Nagercoil) said that Nagercoil was once bounded by paddy fields on more than two sides, but they were on a lower level than the town. The Kodayar channels newly cut ran above the town and all the new conversions were on a higher level. The water thus percolated through the lower grounds and rendered the town unhealthy. To a previous representation, the Dewan's reply was that it was for the Committee to take such steps as would prevent the evil. The difficulty of the Committee, however, was that the area under paddy was so large that it was impossible for them to adopt the only effective course, namely, the acquisition of the paddy lands. The other alternative was to construct some drains, so as to allow the water to run into the nearest channel.

Dewan.—I think that Nagercoil is one of the T. I. C's. with a large surplus fund. The Committee cannot find a better way of utilising the funds in improving the Town.

Member.—The Committee have already submitted, for the consideration of Government, a scheme of water-supply for the town. An office building was also necessary for the Committee. There are also several other purposes for which money is required.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

67. Efficient maintenance of the existing roads and streets and the opening of a few additional roads most urgently needed in the town of Nagercoil.

Mr. D. C. Joseph (Member, T. I. C., Nagercoil) said that the town of Nagercoil was so hemmed in that it was impossible of extension except on the western side. But the chief obstacle to the town expanding westwards was water difficulty. Wells had to be sunk to a depth of 100 feet which rendered it impossible for ordinary persons to lift water. So, what the people did was to live in congested areas and that made the town unhealthy. There was, therefore, urgent necessity to widen the streets and lanes. Recently, some widening was done which was not without its good effect. Another point was that nobody felt any responsibility in the matter of maintaining them in the proper way. It might perhaps be suggested that it was the duty of the Committee to levy the necessary cess and see to the improvements required. But the people were against the levy of any additional charge and the Committee had no funds. The Member suggested that the three toll-gates, which were now situated beyond the Town limits, might be shifted to places within the Town and the same placed under the control of the Committee, so that the toll collections might be utilized for the purpose explained by the Member.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly